



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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****LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE AT WWW.NALEO.ORG/MIAMILIVE****

NALEO to Address Census 2020 Issues in Miami Following Comments from U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott in Support of Citizenship Question

Organization's national membership is in town this week for the NALEO 36th Annual Conference, the largest gathering of Latino policymakers in the nation

NALEO will address the citizenship question and the 2020 Census during a plenary discussion featuring California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Board Member Lubby Navarro

Washington, D.C. – Following comments from U.S. Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott in support of the addition of the citizenship question to Census 2020, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced that it will address the citizenship question and other critical Census 2020 issues as part of a plenary discussion during this week's NALEO 36th Annual Conference in Miami.

Taking place at the Intercontinental Hotel Miami on Friday, June 21, 2019, the plenary will highlight the importance of a full and accurate count of Latinos in Census 2020, as well as how 2020 is shaping up to be a perfect storm that will determine Latino political progress and representation for the foreseeable future.

"It is irresponsible for U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott to advocate for the addition of the citizenship question to Census 2020 and apportionment to the U.S. House of Representatives based solely on the number of U.S. citizens, a policy that would have disastrous consequences for the immigrant communities they represent and the Sunshine State as a whole," stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Chief Executive Officer. "Given the importance of this issue for Latinos and all Americans, the citizenship question will be front and center as we gather more than 1,000 Latino leaders serving on the frontlines of their communities in Miami this week for the nation's Latino political convention."

Speakers for "The Perfect Storm of 2020: Census, Elections and Latinos" plenary include: NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Board Member Lubby Navarro, Voto Latino President and CEO María Teresa Kumar, and Latino Decisions Co-Founder and Managing Partner Dr. Matt Barreto.

Vargas went on to say, "The U.S. Senators from Florida are sworn to uphold the U.S. Constitution, which dictates that the apportionment of the lower chamber of Congress is based on the count of all persons living in the United States, regardless of age, race or citizenship. When the 14th Amendment was drafted and adopted, Congress made the decision to apportion the U.S. House of Representatives based on total population, not just citizens. During a February hearing held by the National Latino Commission on Census 2020, we heard firsthand from Florida civic and community leaders who noted that the citizenship question would heighten the fear and mistrust of responding to the Census that exists in their communities, and would prevent an accurate count of Florida residents."

The NALEO 36th Annual Conference is a unique source of professional development trainings tailored for elected and appointed officials. Conference attendees will have an opportunity to enhance their governance skills and engage our nation's top executive and legislative leaders during the three-day event. Past participants have included U.S. Presidents, U.S. Vice Presidents, Cabinet members, leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, presidential candidates, and business leaders.

Vargas went on to say, "We extended an invitation to our host U.S. Senators to address the NALEO Annual Conference this year just as they did in Orlando in 2012 when we last held our national event in Florida. We are disappointed the Senators declined our invitation which is still open, we hope they will change their minds and join us in a constructive dialogue."

As part of this year's conference, NALEO is hosting a presidential candidate forum in partnership with Presenting Sponsor Comcast NBCUniversal Telemundo. Taking place on the morning of June 21 at Telemundo Center headquarters in Miami, the forum will offer candidates seeking the support of the nation's fastest growing population of new voters a unique opportunity to engage Latino leadership on the issues that matter most to the Latino community. The forum will be streamed nationally on Noticias Telemundo's digital properties.

Presidential candidates attending the forum include: Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Julián Castro, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT), U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell (D CA-15), Former U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke, Former Governor John Hickenlooper and Mayor Pete Buttigieg (South Bend, IN).

For more information about the NALEO 36th Annual Conference, please visit our [website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Who:

Mr. Arturo Vargas, Chief Executive Officer, NALEO Educational Fund
Hon. Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State; Co-Chair, National Latino Census Commission;
Past NALEO President
Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles, California; Board Member, NALEO
Hon. Lubby Navarro, Board Member, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida;
Co-Chair, National Latino Census Commission; Board Member, NALEO
Ms. María Teresa Kumar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Voto Latino
Dr. Matt Barreto, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Latino Decisions
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)

What:

NALEO 36th Annual Conference Census and Elections Plenary

When:

12:30–2:00 p.m. ET
Friday, June 21, 2019

Where:

Grand Ballroom, Level 2
InterContinental Miami
100 Chopin Plaza
Miami, FL 33131

Media:

This event is open to media. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

Press can register for the forum by submitting their request and crew contact details to media@naleo.org.

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,700 Latino elected and appointed officials.